REMARKS

The Office action dated September 11, 2000 has been carefully considered. In the Office action, claim 1 was rejected as being unpatentable over claim 1 of United States Patent No. 6,061,472 for nonstatutory double patenting. A terminal disclaimer has been filed herewith, thus overcoming this rejection.

Further, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Filipski, U.S. Patent No. 4,975,975, (hereinafter Filipski). By the present amendment, claims 2-18 gave been added. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims recite patentable subject matter for the reasons set forth in the following remarks. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims of the present invention are directed to a primary and secondary recognizer, wherein essentially, the recognition decision of the primary recognizer is used to select the secondary recognizer. Significantly, as essentially recited in each of the claims of the present invention, once selected, the secondary recognizer is not bound by the parameters or decision of the first recognizer. For example, claim 1 recites "each secondary recognizer" being "capable of overriding a shape index provided by the primary recognizer." Similarly, claim 7 recites "the secondary recognizer determining a recognition result independent of the shape index provided by the primary recognizer." Claim 13 recites "the selected secondary recognizer determining a recognition result from the chirograph and returning the recognition result, wherein the returned recognition result need not correspond to a value of the shape index determined by the primary recognizer."

Claim 18 recites "the recognition result" (from the CART tree) "being independent of the value indicative of the CART tree."

In direct contrast to the claims, Filipski teaches one big, parametric recognizer, in which the lower recognition levels return a value that is bound / limited by (depends upon) each upper level's classification decision. Filipski thus teaches an entirely different model from that of the present invention. For example, in Filipski, each input letter is narrowed by a level into a subset of possible letters, and the subset is filtered through various levels of the recognizer until only a single letter remains. Importantly, in the Filipski system, if the decision made at any higher level is wrong, the returned letter necessarily will be wrong. This is not true with the model of the present invention, wherein once selected via the primary recognizer, the secondary recognizer can output anything it deems correct, (which in practice greatly increases recognition accuracy), and is not simply limited to a more-narrowed subset of a higher level. By way of example, consider recognition of a single English-language alphabetic character. With the present invention, regardless of which secondary recognizer is selected following the primary recognition, that secondary recognizer can output anything within the possibly allowed outputs for it, e.g., a-z or A-Z, (although a given secondary recognizer need not be trained so as to be capable of outputting every possible output). If Filipski's recognizer gets recognition wrong at any higher level, the next dependent lower level cannot override the higher level, merely reduce the subset to one or more wrong choices.

By law, anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration, and each element must be

"arranged as in the claim." For at least the above reasons, Filipski fails to anticipate the present invention, and applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 based on Filipski, and further submit that claims 2-18 are clearly patentable over Filipski.

Moreover, by teaching a single parametric recognition system that binds dependent lower levels to the classification decision of the prior level, Filipski teaches away from the independent recognizers that form the recognition system of the present invention. For example, the present invention is significantly more flexible than Filipski's model, in that the input to the primary recognizer is not limited to the same type of data that the secondary recognizer outputs, e.g., the present invention could translate one language to another, a shape to a word, and so forth, because the output of the secondary recognizer is independent of the recognition performed by the primary recognizer.

For at least the above reasons, applicants submit that the claims are clearly patentable over Filipski, as well as any other prior art of record, whether considered alone or in any permissible combination. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

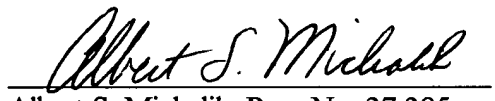
The prior art of record has been considered. None of these references appears to affect the patentability of applicant's claims. In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-18 of the present application are patentable over the

prior art of record, and that the application is in good and proper form for allowance. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (425) 653-3520.

Signed at Bellevue, in the County of King, and State of Washington, January 11, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 11, 2001